Indiscriminate and unauthorised felling of trees in forests

†1301. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards indiscriminate and unauthorised felling of trees in the forests;

(b) if so, whether any measures to stop it have been taken or are under consideration; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) The protection and management of forests primarily is the responsibility of the State Governments. There is no specific report with the Central Government regarding indiscriminate and unauthorised felling of trees in the forests of the country. However, due to the biotic pressures on the forests, incidents of illicit felling do occur in various parts of the country which are detected and dealt with under the various provisions of Indian Forest Act and other relevant rules.

(b) and (c) The Central Government has requested the State Governments to strengthen the forest protection machinery and to declare forest protection, as a Plan item and invest more funds for the protection of forests throught state plan budgets. Central Government has issued guidelines to all the States and UTs for involving the local people in the protection and management of forests under the Joint Forest Management (JFM) programme. The JFM programme was launched in June 1990 and so far 10.24 million ha. of forest lands are being managed by 36165 JFM Committees in 23 states of the country. Due to the implementation of JFM significant changes have occurred in forest regeneration and protection.

Integrated Forestry Development Project in Gujarat

1302. SHRI RAJU PARMAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a forestry project titled, "Integrated Forestry Development Project", is under implementation in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the date of its starting and completion;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi